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THE LION KING

A NATURE FUN AND LEARN SERIES 2

60



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Grapevine

Hi there!

This week we've been asking our animal friends what they think of the jokes you've been sending in. As you can see, the response was good. Mouse, Cheetah and Hippo were very amused.

Baboon, of course, will laugh at anything. Zebras are not easily pleased, but we seem to have got through to one at least. There is a tiger in northern India, however, who is not amused. I understand from those who know him that he is a bit of a sour-puss. Keep sending the jokes; maybe we'll reach him yet.

Kim



Sour-puss!

Write to:
Kim,
The Lion King,
PO Box 1,
Basingstoke, T200 0R



Which animals
seem your
relatives the most?
Mammals
Kim



Baboon, of course, will
laugh at anything.



Hippo said she laughed until her thighs
ached... or was it sides?



Seal said she
laughed so
much she had
to lie down
and rest for
quite a
long time
afterwards.



"I laughed till I was
hoarse," said Zebra.



What a throw-
n and prickly,
and squirrely as you?

grumpy
Bazza Groggins
Shane Anthony



Walrus thinks that corny jokes are bad
for your health. He doesn't want Mrs
Walrus to hear any more!



Cheetah enjoys a good joke. "I can't wait
for you to print one," he said.

W
A
T
C
H

There are 10 arts, just like this
one, hidden in the pages of
this magazine.
Can you see them?

OUT FOR



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Journey



BAFIN REMEMBERS

The Honey Guide

FREE IN PART 61

The first part of a groovy
animal mobile that'll
always be in the swing!



Editor: [illegible]
Art editor: [illegible]
Production: [illegible]
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SIMBA'S WORLD

BAT-EARED FOXES ARE SMALL, LONG-LEGGED WILD DOGS THAT CAN LIVE IN DRY, HOT, SANDY AREAS BECAUSE OF THEIR DIET. UNLIKE JACKALS AND HYENAS WHICH NEED RED MEAT, THESE FOXES MAINLY EAT INSECTS.

Bat-eared Foxes

Smaller than European red foxes, bat-eared foxes have long, thin legs, a pointed muzzle, oversized, oval-shaped ears and thick, bushy tails. Their fur is greyish yellow, but the tips of their tails, their feet and the edges of their ears are dark brown.

They live in savannah and dry, scrub areas in only two parts of Africa, from southern Sudan to

south-west Tanzania in the east, and from Namibia to the centre of South Africa in the south. They can run fast and do sudden turns, both when they're playing and when they're trying to escape from predators such as leopards – this is why their nickname in Afrikaans is 'draaipakkies' which means 'turning jackals'.

FACT FILE

BAT-EARED FOX
Otocorys megalotis

SIZE: Body up to 70cm long, tail up to 35cm.

RANGE: They live in savannah, scrubland and sandy areas in eastern and south-western Africa.

DIET: They mainly eat insects, especially termites, and a small number of snakes, lizards, birds and small mammals.

YOUNG: 2-6.



WOW!

A bat-eared fox's hearing is so sensitive that it can pick up the sounds of a dung beetle grub gnawing its way through a dung ball in its underground burrow.

► LISTENING FOR FOOD

When bat-eared foxes are foraging, they hold their ears forward and move their head from side to side to pinpoint the movements of insects that are scuttling about.

◀ LYING OUT

For most of the year, bat-eared foxes rest above ground, in the shelter of a bush or clump of grass.

Bat-eared foxes are unusual members of the dog family, because although they do take some small mammals, birds and reptiles, they mainly eat insects, particularly termites. They are specially adapted for this diet.

Their huge ears, which are up to 13cm long and 10cm wide, act like satellite dishes, helping them to gather

sounds coming from the ground and even from the soil underneath. They locate their food with their ears and if the bugs are under the ground they can dig them up with their sharp claws.

They also have between four and eight more molar teeth than other wild dogs, which help them to crush this insect food.

SURVIVING IN DRY SCRUBLAND

Bat-eared foxes can survive in very hot, dry places because they can usually find plenty of insects there. They have an advantage over other insect-eaters, such as meerkats, because they can find their food at night. This is because they use their ears, and not their eyes, to locate it.

It is more risky to feed during the day, because of the danger of being spotted by predators, but they take this risk when they have a family to raise.

◀ TEMPORARY HOME

When a pair of bat-eared foxes are expecting pups, they dig a den deep underground, or take over an aardvark's or even a springhare's burrow.



FAMILY LIFE

When a male and female bat-eared fox pair up, they usually stay together for life. The female is pregnant for about eight weeks and during this time she and her mate dig a deep den, with one or more chambers and several entrances. They mark the boundaries of their territory with their urine.

The mother gives birth to 2-6 pups, which have sandy coloured, woolly coats and black-tipped tails. They suckle from the mother in the den for the first two and a half weeks, and then venture above ground. At this stage the father guards them, while they explore and play. This gives the mother the chance to forage for food. If she has a large litter, she needs to feed most of the day so that she can provide enough milk for the pups. She suckles them at dawn and at dusk. When the pups are three weeks old, the parents will offer them their first solid food, often a lizard or small snake.



LENDING A HELPING PAW
Bat-eared foxes are very sociable. When, after several months, the youngsters are ready to leave, one sometimes stays behind to help the parents raise their next litter.

A MOTHER'S MILK
Bat-eared fox pups suckle for up to 15 weeks – twice as long as the pups of most other wild dogs.

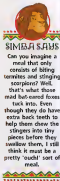
GROWING UP

The pups take about four months to become fully grown. During this time, they learn how to listen for insects above and below ground, and how to dig them up speedily. They also spend time playing, chasing each other, rolling over and pouncing on one another. At nine months, they are old enough to find themselves a mate and start a family of their own.

A hungry hyena, jackal or leopard could easily snatch and kill a young bat-eared fox. Even though he is only about two-thirds the size of a brown hyena, this father fox boldly chases away the intruder who has come too close to the pups that he is guarding. With his ears standing up and his tail arched aggressively, he shows the hyena that he means business as he speeds after him.



A CLEAN BEHIND THE EARS
The parents groom their pups, getting rid of ticks and other parasites from places that the pups cannot reach, such as behind their ears.



SIMBA SAYS

Can you imagine a meal that only consists of biting termites and stinging scorpions? Well, that's what those mad bat-eared foxes tickle into. Even though they do have extra back teeth to help them chew the stingers into tiny pieces before they swallow them, I still think it must be a pretty 'ouch!' sort of meal.

**HAKUNA
MATATA**
NO WORRIES!

"Me and my motor-mouth!" sighed Timon, stepping slowly out on to the treacherous mud next to the waterhole.

Timon, Pumbaa and Simba had gathered sticks, grass and other succable vegetation. The meerkat was now laying it down in an ever-extending pathway over the muddy ooze, to support his light body. Timon kept returning to his pals for more material for the path.

"This idea had better work, Timon!" said the warthog, worriedly.

"Sure! Or my name's mud," joked the meerkat, trying to sound cheerful. He was taking a very big risk. But, if

he didn't, a young giraffe could die. Maddeningly close to Timon, yet still beyond his reach, the baby giraffe had toppled into the gooey mud. And, although the giraffe calf had battled bravely to escape, he was now too used to move.

"Don't give up on me now," Timon called to him. "We'll get you out. Just you wait and see!"

The herd of giraffes watched with worried brown eyes. The bull giraffe turned to Simba.

"You and your friends have shown great kindness and caring," he said. "Lions usually bring only danger to my herd. We are grateful for your efforts!"

"Simba's one big-hearted lung-car," Pumbaa said, proudly. "He's a purr-fect pal to any animal in trouble!"

"But right now, it's Timon asking his neck, not me," said Simba.

Timon returned, once again, along the path to firm ground, then he slapped his paws together.

"Less talk and more action, guys," he called. "I'm supposed to be the one with the wagging tongue, remember?"

Now came the toughest part of the plan. Timon picked up the long, rope-like vine they had fetched earlier. He pulled one end on to the firm path. The thin layer was all that stopped the meerkat sinking into the mud as well.

"Steep on it, little buddy!" called Pumbaa. "Do you think I'm going to waste time fixing myself a mudpack?" snapped Timon. But then Simba glanced up and growled.

A vulture was slowly circling above them. It had spotted the trapped calf and its life or death struggle.

Soon the single bird became two, then three. The great, airborne scavengers, made their slow, sweeping descents.

"Flying dustbins!" Pumbaa snorted in disgust. "If they're after a free meal, then they'll go hungry."

Simba understood that the sinister visitors, like all creatures, served a useful purpose. But the grim presence of the vultures annoyed him. They also troubled the giraffes. Some vultures settled on some rocks, while the others gathered in the acacia tree.

Meanwhile, Timon moved closer to the young giraffe, who had also seen the vultures and was scared stiff.

"Hakuna matata! No worries," said Timon, calmly. "I'll just tie this vine round you and you'll be out of there faster than a cheetah in full stride!"

The calf was lying on his side, so Timon stepped lightly on to him.

Then he looped the vine around the calf's shoulders and front legs.

"You may be tied up just now," added the meerkat. "But you will soon be free to have fun again!"



As the meerkat raced back along the makeshift pathway, he felt the mud move under him. Luckily, the mud was just firm enough beneath the giraffe to stop him sinking altogether. But time was running out. Amid welcome cries from his best buddies, Timon was relieved to have reached solid ground. He picked up the other end of the vine and waved it at the towering bull giraffe.

"It's time for you to pull your weight, lofty," Timon called, cheekily. "And the weight of that poor calf!" "I am ready," replied the giraffe. Timon climbed up to the almost endless neck and tied another loop around his huge host's shoulders. Then he slid down and hurred clear of the giraffe's column-like legs.

As the giraffe slowly strode away from the mud, the calf's lifeline went taut. "What if it breaks?" muttered Pumbaa, hardly daring to look.

The vine and the calf's luck held. Head bowed with the effort, the bull giraffe pulled with all his strength. As the herd stood nearby, the mother made a low call to her frightened calf. Slowly but surely, the gooey trap released him.

"Now we're cooking!" yelled Timon, triumphantly. "So am I! The brains in this outfit, or what?"

"This rescue is taking plenty of brawn, too," Simba reminded him.

Even as the lion spoke, the line snagged on some scrub. For a shocking moment, the bull giraffe faltered and stopped pulling. The calf began to sink deeper into the mud, which now threatened to swallow him. Simba leapt forward and threw his weight on to the scrub to flatten it. The vine sprang free and the bull giraffe took the strain once more.

"Phew! That was really quick thinking, Simba," gasped Pumbaa. "Any slower and the calf wouldn't have made it," added Timon.

The giraffe herd realized this fact. They thanked Simba, then Timon and Pumbaa, as the youngster was finally pulled clear of the mud. The calf lay panting with exhaustion, before getting to his feet. The bull giraffe, also tired, lowered his head for the meerkat to untie the vine.

"Great team, eh?" smiled Timon. "Simba sure played a star role!"

"Only those feathered freaks lost out," added Pumbaa, nodding towards the disappointed vultures. "Isn't it time they were leaving?"

"High time!" agreed the lion, bounding towards a pair of the great birds that had hopped down to the ground. There was a screech of protest, a sudden flapping of wings and the vultures took off. With a snarl, Simba leapt after them. Twisting in mid-air, he swiped with a club-like paw. It narrowly missed the startled birds, but it was more than enough to scare them off.

"See that flyin' lion!" cheered Pumbaa. "Go, Simba, go!"

But Simba landed awkwardly. One leg sank into a sharp, narrow crack in the stony ground. His paw twisted and he yelped. When he tried to stand, he couldn't put any weight on the fast-swelling foot. Simba licked the bleeding gash, but he knew that there would be no easy cure for it.

"Guess I really ow... put my foot in it this time," he grumbled.

Timon, Pumbaa and the giraffes watched worriedly as Simba limped in pain. The African wilderness was a cruel land where only the fit survived. Simba settled uneasily under the shade of the acacia while the giraffes grazed and drank. Within a short time, his injury was an angry, bright red. His eyes felt heavy and his body began to shiver with fever.

"He'll get worse before he gets better," Timon told Pumbaa.

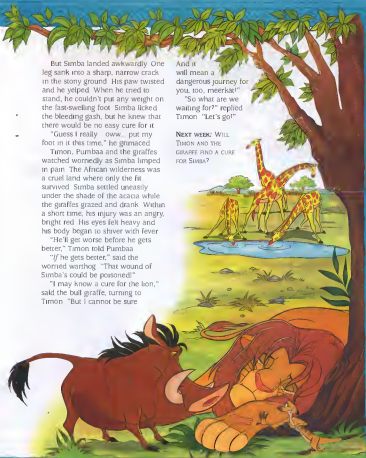
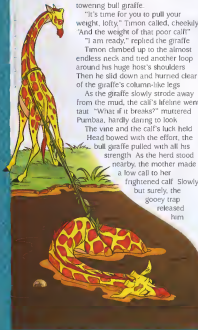
"If he gets better," said the worried warthog. "That wound of Simba's could be poisoned!"

"I may know a cure for the lion," said the bull giraffe, turning to Timon. "But I cannot be sure

And it will mean a dangerous journey for you, too, meerkat!"

"So what are we waiting for?" replied Timon. "Let's go!"

NEXT WEEK: WILL TIMON AND THE GIRAFFE FIND A CURE FOR SIMBA?



ZAZU'S

MAKE & DO

Pyramid Ring

When you join certain shapes together, some very strange things can happen. The construction below is really six pyramids made up into a ring. They are joined together in such a way that you can turn them through the centre of the ring. Even when you play with it, you'll be amazed that it works!

YOU WILL NEED

tracing paper
sharp pencil
ruler
run-out ballpoint pen
thin white card
masking/sticky tape
scissors
coloured felt-tip
latex glue/Copypex

1 Using a sharp pencil and ruler, carefully trace the template grid (see over the page) on to tracing paper. Turn over the tracing and fix it firmly to the white card with masking tape. Go over all the lines to transfer them to the card. Also transfer the words 'glue' and 'tab'.

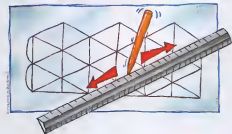
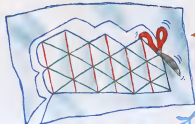
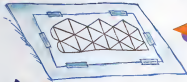
2 Carefully score along all the lines, including the ones next to the tabs – with a ruler and a run-out ballpoint pen. Then look at the template grid to help you while you make your pyramid ring.

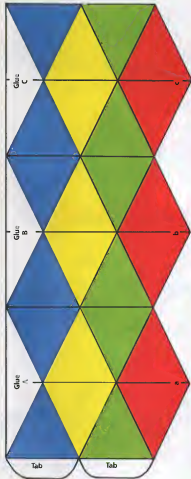
4 With the lines on the outside, curve the two long edges of the shape together until the three points (a, b and c) overlap the gluing areas (A, B and C). Spread white latex glue over the three gluing areas. Press the points down on to the glue, sliding them over to match up the lines. Wipe off any excess glue.

3 Cut round the outline of the shape. Make valley folds along the six vertical (red) lines. Then make mountain folds along the eight diagonal (blue) lines. The card will now begin to curve into shape.

5 Bend the shape into a ring. Spread glue on the outer sides of the two tabs. Push the glued tabs into the open edges of the last pyramid, matching up the lines. Turn the shape so that you can squeeze the glued tabs firmly in place.

6 Leave the structure for a few hours while the glue gets firmly. Now you can rotate the shape so that the points go through the centre over and over again. Turn the page for tips on decorating your rotating pyramids!





Decorating the Rotating Ring

You can decorate the ring while the card is still flat, or you can wait until it is assembled. The template colours show which shapes appear together as they rotate.

- You can colour the faces of the pyramids with solid colour, patterns, or with stickers.
- You can also decorate the faces with small cut-outs, flat sequins or even glitter paints.



- To write a message, divide the words evenly between the six triangles that are visible at the same time, as below.



- If you're feeling extra creative, you could even draw little pictures of your favourite Lion King characters! Or why not try a life cycle ring, with eggs, caterpillars, pupae and butterflies?



STAYING COOL IN THE SUN

The heat at midday in many parts of Africa can be scorching – but not if you always stay at Pupa and Bio. Dragonflies have an ingenious solution.

Skipper butterflies climb into termite mounds to escape the midday heat, but dragonflies, like this one, do a special handstand instead. By pointing its abdomen straight at the sun, and by shading its thorax and head with its wings, the dragonfly can stay out in the burning midday sun.





NORTHERN NORTH AMERICA

IF REGIONS COULD BE DESCRIBED AS GREEDY, THIS WOULD BE ONE. WITH ITS GREAT FORESTS, JAGGED MOUNTAINS, WIDE-OPEN PRAIRIES AND RUGGED COASTLINES, IT HAS MORE SCENERY THAN ONE PLACE DESERVES TO HAVE.

In the far north is our old friend tundra, with its high winds, bitter cold and frozen ground. Only the tough and furry can live here. There are ground squirrels, lemmings, foxes, stoats, caribou and bees. Most birds only venture up here in the spring and summer to breed and eat the insects which flourish in the thaw. Gyrfalcons, however, are fierce all-year residents.

To the south is boreal forest. A fur-coated lemming would still feel comfortable here, for the summers are short and the winters long. The forest is made up of spruce, fir and pine and it's big — it stretches from the north-west to the south-east, like one huge Christmas tree plantation. Moose, beavers and chipmunks live here, but more worrying for a lemming are the predatory wolves, lynxes and great grey owls.

Over in the west, there are rugged mountains, deeply cut valleys and wide plateaus.

► **A GOOD MIX**
In the south of the region, evergreen conifers grow alongside deciduous trees.

Gyrfalcons, the largest of the falcons, catch their prey after a long, level chase low over the ground.

In the far west are rainforests with Sitka spruce, western hemlock and 90m-tall Douglas fir trees. Beneath them, blacktail deer browse on the plants and try to avoid cougars.

In the east, there is a range of rounded hills and valleys. Mixed forests thrive there, with deciduous beech and sugar maples among the evergreen conifers. In this region, it is possible to meet North America's only

marsupial, the opossum, and the incredibly busy pygmy shrew.



A VOLE CATCHER
In spite of its size, the great grey owl eats nearly voles. It has a wingspan of 1.5m and is 75cm tall.

Mountain goats have short, strong legs, flexible toes and non-slip soles for climbing on rocky slopes.



After a few months, baby opossums climb out of their mother's pouch and ride on her back.



◀ **LAKES 'N' PEAKS**
Moraine Lake in the Rockies is known as the "Valley of the Ten Peaks". A few of them can be seen here.

▼ **FORESTS OF RAIN**
On the west coast, there is lots of rain, a mild climate and deep soils. Rainforest flourishes.



Pygmy shrews must eat almost all the time to stay alive. They cannot even sleep through the night.



"The work that beavers do is fascinating, isn't it?"

"Yeah, I could sit and watch them all day."



Beavers fell small trees by gnawing through them with their sharp teeth.

If you are strolling through these northern forests and you come across a small lake with a mound of sticks in the middle, you will have found a beaver's home. These large rodents are suited to life in and near water, and they make their own lake by damming a river. The dam is made from branches and saplings. They cut these from the nearby forest with their sharp teeth and then drag them into position, filling the gaps between with mud and stones.

The dam creates a lake and in the middle, safe from wolves and other predators, the beavers build a lodge in

which to live and breed. It rises up out of the water like an island. Inside, above the water-line, is a chamber where the young beavers, or kitsens, can be safe and dry.

A lodge may house a family group, made up of the parents and their young. There may be up to 12 beavers living there, all busy gathering food and making repairs to the dam and lodge.

BEAVERING AWAY
All members of the family group help to build and repair the dam and lodge. They work on their own.



MAKING LAKES
The dam stems the flow of the river. This creates a lake in which a lodge is built.

IN THE SWIM
A beaver paddles along with its webbed hind feet and steers with its flat tail.



Lodge

Dam



LION KING COLOUR IT IN

Feeling Blue



Pumbaa carried Simba across his tusks and laid him down beside a waterhole. Timon splashed water over the little lion. "You OK, kid?" he asked. "I guess so," Simba replied. Then he got to his feet and started to leave. "Hey, where are you from?" Timon called out. Simba stopped. He was very depressed. "Who cares? I can't go back," he answered sadly.



PUZZLES

BANZAI'S JOURNEY

Shenzi and Ed have found some carrion, so they've run to a secret hideaway to eat it. They've left a coded trail for Banzai to follow. Every time there is a choice of path, a symbol will direct Banzai. He must then continue until the next symbol. Using the symbols below, can you help Banzai find his friends?

-  STRAIGHT ON
-  TURN LEFT
-  TURN RIGHT
-  NEXT TWO TURNS RIGHT
-  NEXT TWO TURNS LEFT



BANZAI'S BRAINTEASER

It takes Banzai six minutes to travel half a kilometre. His two pals are hiding one and a half kilometres away, so how many minutes will it take Banzai to reach his friends?
 Shenzi and Ed will devour a quarter of the carcass every nine minutes. If Banzai doesn't get lost, how much of the carcass will be left when he reaches them?



HUNGRY HYENAS

Hidden in the picture are some more hungry hyenas. How many can you find?

MORE PUZZLES

ANIMAL ANAGRAMS

Written on the bones round the page are the names of some birds and beasts that used to live in the Pride Lands before Scar became king. Can you rearrange the letters and work out what creatures they are?



SEARCHING FOR FOOD

Can you find the words below hidden in the grid? Read up, down, forwards and backwards and diagonally.

TASTE DIGEST CARRION
CHEW SPOMACH FLESH
GRASS MEAT BONE
SHRUB

WHO'S HUNGRY?

dots the dots and you'll see another hungry creature. Who is it?

WORD CROSS

Answer the clues below and fit them into the cross. All the words end in S. The shaded squares will spell out a creature that lives on the savannah.

- 1 Lions live in groups called.....
- 2 A giant grass that grows in South America.
- 3 What type of bird are marabou?
- 4 Wide areas of grassland where animals graze.

RAFIKI REMEMBERS

THE HONEY GUIDE

BEING DISHONEST
CAN GET YOU INTO
TERRIBLE TROUBLE
— LOOK WHAT
HAPPENED TO
WHEATEAR!

Honey Guide and Wheatear were very good friends who lived together and shared their meals. Their favourite food was honey — but it wasn't always easy to find. However Honey Guide seemed to be able to find it more easily than his friend.

One day, the two birds went out to search for honey. "When you see some, just nod," they told each other. As usual, Honey Guide was the first to spot it. When he nodded, Wheatear saw the honey too. But as it was getting late, they decided to leave the honey and come back the next day.

However, during the night Wheatear became hungry. "What I really fancy is some of that delicious honey," he said to himself, and could not stop thinking about it. Finally, he stole out of the nest and ate it all.

The next morning, Honey Guide said, "I'm really looking forward to my breakfast of yummy honey — let's go and get it." Of course, when they reached the place, the honey had gone. Honey Guide looked suspiciously at his friend. "Do you know what's happened to it?" he asked.

"I hope you don't think I took it," said Wheatear.





Honey Guide said nothing.

The two birds started looking for honey once more. Again, Honey Guide was the first to spot it. As soon as he nodded, Wheatear saw it too.

Read this Lion King fanst!

